

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1, 2, and 14 have been amended and new claims 16-18 have been added. Claims 1-4 and 14-18 are pending and under consideration.

Antecedent basis for amendment to claims 1, 2, and 14 may be found in the Specification on page 14, lines 4-8 and in Fig. 1 and Fig. 5. Antecedent basis for claim 1 regarding the feature wherein both a printing layer and a recording layer are provided on each side of the substrate may be found in the Specification on page 22, lines 12-14 in conjunction with page 6, line 19 to page 7 line 2, page 2, line 24 to page 3, line 2, lines 2-11 of page 21, lines 1-5 of page 4, and lines 4-8 of page 14.

Antecedent basis for claims 16 and 17 may be found in the Specification on page 22, lines 5-10. The Examiner is requested to note that Figs. 5 and 6 shows a printing layer 15 having a printing ink 22 printed under (or inside) a printing base material 21 at the outermost of the optical disc.

No new features and/or new matter have been added. Accordingly, entry and approval of claims 1, 2, 14, and 16-18 is respectfully requested.

II. Examiner Interview

On April 9, 2010, the Examiner kindly granted Applicants a personal interview to discuss the application. The Examiner's time in preparing for and conducting the interview is acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

During the interview, Applicants briefly discussed a draft proposal for amending the claims. The Examiner tentatively indicated the proposed amendment would be allowable over the prior art cited in the instant Office Action, but that new search and consideration would be required. The Examiner stated a preference for "outer" over "outermost" when describing the location of the printing layer. The amended claims reflect this preference. The Examiner expressed a concern that describing the disposition of the printing ink as "interior" or "inner" may be either ambiguous or unsupported by the Specification. The amended claims do not contain either "interior" or "inner."

III. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Regarding the invention of amended claims 1, 2, and 14, an optical disc may be obtained by printing ink on the printing base material to form a printed layer, and then directing the printed ink to the substrate and laminating the printing base material to the substrate. Since the printing ink may be applied to the printing base material and then the printing base material with ink may be laminated to the base material, a highly fine printing layer can be obtained.

In addition, the printing ink may be disposed under the printing base material. In other words, the printing ink may be inserted between the printing base material and the substrate, thereby providing an optical disc having a highly durable printing layer.

On the other hand, the Otomo, Anderson, Ota, and Arai et al. references are silent with respect to a printing layer provided as an outer layer of an optical disk and comprised of a printing base material and printing ink, wherein the printing ink is printed on the surface of the printing base material facing the substrate.

Although not limited to any particular method, the printing layer of claims 1, 2, and 14 may be prepared by applying ink to the printing base material on the surface of the printing base material that faces the adhesive layer (i.e. the backside of the printing base material). The printing layer may be further arranged so that the opposite surface of the printing base material (i.e. the side on which ink has not been applied) is the outermost surface of the optical disc. As a result of this arrangement, the printed surface composed of printing ink may be protected, thereby providing a unique image having both luster and depth. See Specification at page 14, lines 4-8.

Claims 16-18 refer to the printing layer being prepared by printing on the printing base material to form a printed sheet, and then laminating a printed sheet to the substrate to create an optical disc. As a result, high-definition printing can be carried out, and highly detailed images may be obtained inexpensively. Further, information that varies from disc to disc during fabrication, such as serial numbers that change sequentially from one disk to the next, may now be printed on an optical disc. See Specification at page 22, lines 5-10.

These remarkable and advantageous effects may only be obtained from the present invention, and are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited.

None of the references cited disclose the making of an optical disc comprising preparing a printing layer in which the printing is performed in advance, and then laminating the printing

layer to the substrate. Nor do any of the references cited disclose a printing layer laminated to a substrate wherein the printed surface of the printing layer faces the substrate.

Accordingly, the present invention, as claimed, is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the references cited by the Office Action, and is nonobvious over these references. Therefore, the rejections to amended claims 1, 2, and 14 and claims 3, 4, and 15, which depend from amended claims 1, 2, and 14, should be withdrawn, which is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 19th 2010

By: John E. Hillert
John E. Hillert
Registration No. 64,296

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501